

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 13-20 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are amended. Support for the amendments is based upon the working examples set forth in the specification.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 13-18 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanda et al. in view of Enoki et al., and claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over these references further in view of Ishibashi et al. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Applicants maintain that the combination of references would not render the claimed invention obvious. In particular, one of ordinary skill in the art can not combine Enoki et al. with Kanda et al. since the heat-resistant resin of Enoki et al. is not aqueous but alkali-soluble. However, in order to more clearly distinguish the invention from the combination of art, the claims have been amended to specify the amount of surfactant.

In paragraph [0024] of Kanda et al., the content of surfactant is 50 to 2,000 ppm based on the water-soluble resin composition. This correlates to 0.005 g to 0.2 g with respect to 100 g of a resin.

Enoki et al. discloses the content of surfactant (the weight ratio of the component (A) as a component having an amphiphathic property to a component (B) as a heat-resistant resin or a precursor thereof) as preferably 5/95 to 90/10. This correlates to 5.26 to 900 g with respect to 100 g of resin.

Application No.: 10/670,291
Art Unit: 1756

Submission under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Attorney Docket No.: 031181

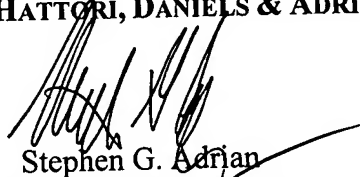
Accordingly, even if the references could be combined, the combination fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: RCE Transmittal